



By the King.

A Proclamation prohibiting the  
publishing of any reports or writings of Duels.



Ecause among other bitter fruits that these  
vnlawfull and bewitching Duels haue produced ; there is  
none more dangerous for the sequell , more contemptuous  
against Our Authoritie , and more godlesse against the Di-  
uine Maiestie , then is the publication , as it were before the  
Sunne and Moone , of mens arrogant conceits of their  
owne valour : We haue thought it high time to prevent  
the same , finding it now to bee a common custome , which  
doth daily come to Our Eares ; that men no sooner finde themselves barred or crossed by  
any interuening occasion of their bloodthirstie and reuenging appetite , for destruction  
either of themselves , or their partie in the Field ; but presently must come forth a writing  
to be published to the world ; which is nothing else , then a Proclamation or Edict as  
farre as in him lyeth ; thereby either shifting or excusing their former slownesse , or ac-  
cusing their partie for not duely meeting them in their preposterous hast to their owne  
ruines : wherein wee obserue three great and maine offences ; One against both GOD  
and Us , that they dare presume to set forth to the world without shame , their owne  
vindictiue and bloody humour vpon so vnjust a ground ; For no quarrell of any Sub-  
iects can be lawfull , except in defence of their Prince or their Countrey , the reuenging of  
all priuate wrongs onely belonging to Us ( vnder GOD , ) into whose hand hee hath  
put the Sword for that purpose ; The next is their offence against Us , in daring to  
presume so farre vpon Our speciall Prerogative , as to take vpon them to make any

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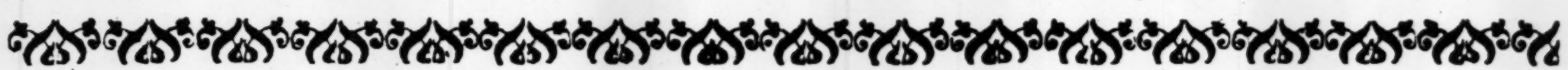


publication of their pleasure, the power whereof is onely in Us; The third and last is, that thereby is a new seed sown of quarrels, whereupon Quarrels doe not onely become immortal, but multiply: For when as we shal haue taken the paines to cause Our Marshals to agree a Quarrell, whereupon wee and all honest men haue reason to accompt it as vtterly extinct vpon such publication; both the parties and the seconds (if any bee) are anew brought vpon the Stage againe, and not onely by that meanes may it happen, that the parties shall againe fall out who befoze were agreed; but euen their friends, and peraduenture other friends who had nothing to doe with the matter, must vpon that backe reckoning fall by the eares together: Nay, if it should chance one or both of the parties to be killed in the first Quarrell, if such sort of publication should bee made by any of the seconds: It is enough to renew a Quarrell either betweene those seconds, or some of the neerest of their kinne who were killed befoze: And so shall Quarrels become immortal, and their memory renew, wheras the best remedy against all finnes and offences is Forgetfulnesse.

For remedy whereof, we doe hereby declare, that whosoever shall after the publication of this Our Pleasure, presume to put in writing, or publish any Discourse of the maner, either of their meetings appointed with their parties, or their fighting, or of any part of that quarrellous businesse: wee will haue them to bee brought <sup>ore te-</sup> nus, or otherwise, as the case shall require in the Starrechamber, and there to be punished at the discretion and censure of that Court for their high contempt against Us; to be hereafter banished the Court, of Us, Our dearest Bedfellow, and the Prince Our Sonne for the space of seven yeeres; And (which is heauiest of all) wee doe protest for Our owne part, we will neuer accompt of them but as of Cowards: For we doe euer hold it the part of a man to shew his courage, when he is put to it in Action: but he that seekes his Reputation from manifest voyces amongst the people, we will euer account it to proceed from the knowledge and iealousie of his owne weaknesse, as if a man could not winne Honour, but *per emendicata suffragia* among the Ordinaries. And if any man should find himselfe grieved with any whisperings, or rumours spread abroad, misreporting the carriage of any such matter, he may resort to our Commissioners Marshall, who shall right him in his Reputation, if they finde he be wronged.

Giuen at Hinchinbrooke the fifteenth day of October, in the eleuenth yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland.

God saue the King.



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A N N O D O M. 1613.